schemes are implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Budget Estimate (2006-07) (Rs. in crores)
1.	Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes	440.00
2.	Pre-Matric Scholarship to children of those engaged in Unclean Occupations	16.00
3.	Post-Matric Scholarship for OBCs	31.49
4.	Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBCs	22.50
5.	National Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities	Approx. annual expenditure of Rs. 65.00 lakhs

The rates of maintenance allowance payable under first two schemes has been revised w.e.f. 1.4.2003, whereas for the remaining schemes no revision has been done so far.

Proper utilization of funds allocated for schemes

2541. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated under various schemes of the Ministry are not being used to educationally empower SC/ST students;

(b) if so, the details alongwith reasons therefor;

(c) what is the total amount of funds that have been allocated to Orissa to empower SC/ST students during 2005-06; and

(d) the progress of utilization of these funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The funds released by the Ministry under various schemes are properly utilized. The level of expenditure under various schemes for the development of Scheduled Caste has been upto the mark and much above the level of Budget Estimate during 2005-06.

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SC students, no Central assistance could be released to Government

of Orissa during 2005-06. However, an adhoc central assistance of Rs. 1739.68 lakh have been released in the current financial year which covers the requirement of the State under the scheme for 2005-06. Assistance was also released to Government of Orissa during 2005-06 for the welfare of Scheduled Castes under following schemes:

Sl. No.	Scheme	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary organisations for Scheduled Castes	207.02
2.	Upgradation of Merit to Scheduled Castes	186.37

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribes, an amount of Rs. 100.00 lakhs was released to the Government of Orissa during 2005-06. In addition, Ministry of Tribal Affairs provided grant-in-aid in Orissa under the following schemes during 2005-06.

Sl. No.	Scheme	Expenditure (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Residential School/Non-Residential School	127.15
2.	Education Complexes for the development of literacy among tribal girls in low literacy pockets	110.90
3.	Establishment of Eklavya Model Residential School	1029.79

(d) Further Central assistance is released on receipt of the details of utilization of the funds.

Steps taken on affirmative action

2542. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are sensitive to the issue of affirmative action, including reservation, in the private sector;

(b) if so, what is the progress in this matter; and

(c) what actions are proposed to implement the assurance given for the national programme?